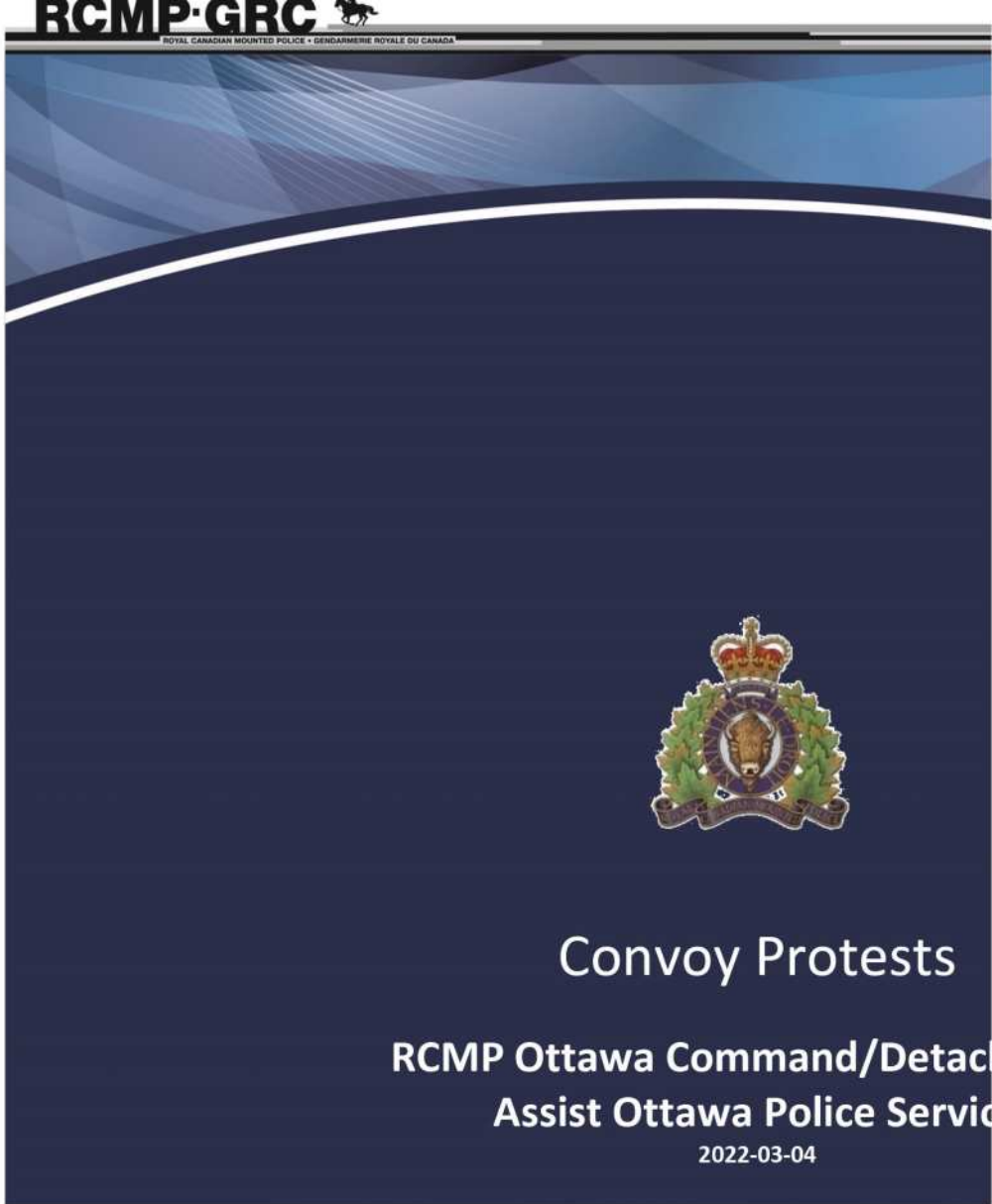




Contents

Objective/Purpose.....

Executive Summary:

Concept of

Operatio

ns:

Backgrou

nd and

Chronolo

gy

Mobilizat

ion:.....

Administ

ration &

Personne

I -

General:

Forward

Operatin

g Base

(FOB)/Ar

ea

Comman

d:.....7

Logistics

Section:

Transport Section:7

Schedule/Planning/Deployment Section:.....8

Legal.....8

Special Constable and MOA:.....8

Briefings and Joining Instructions:.....10



Conclusion10



Objective/Purpose

To provide Federal Policing/Strategic Management with background material in regards to the RCMP Assist Ottawa Police Operations, with emphasis on Mobilization/Demobilization.

Note: This document does not include analysis of items related to Command/Control, Integrated Command Centre (ICC), Integrated Planning Unit (IPU) or Deliberate Action Plan development, nor should it be considered an analysis of the operation.

Executive Summary:

On January 28, 2022, the Freedom Trucker Convoy began arriving in Ottawa.

The Ottawa Police Service (OPS), subsequently requested assistance from the RCMP. The Initial RCMP assistance was coordinated under National Division (ND) Commanding Officer, A/Comm Parsons, who oversaw the deployment of fifty (50) RCMP personnel, which satisfied the elements of the initial MOA between the RCMP and OPS.

As the demands on National Division impacted capacity, direction from DCFP was to bifurcate Command from National Division A/Comm Parson to Supt. M. O'Beirne. The *RCMP Ottawa Command/Detachment: Assist OPS* Command was created on February 8, 2022, at 09:30.

Between February 8-28, 2022, the *RCMP Ottawa Command/Detachment: Assist OPS* Command was in place and deployed RCMP and municipal police elements towards the successful conclusion of operations. Although the bifurcated Command was a separate entity from National Division, it nonetheless capitalized on some elements and personnel that were already in place from ND, namely: Finance, Logistics, Fleet, Divisional Intelligence Officer (DIO), Post Garage, Communications, National Capital Region Coordination Centre (NCRCC), Radio Workshop and NCRCC Technical Coordinator, NHQ Procurement.

February 28, 2022 (14:00) saw the *RCMP Ottawa Command/Detachment: Assist OPS* Command be disbanded with oversight of the Maintenance Plan return under National Division A. Commanding Officer.

Assist Ottawa operations were concluded on March 2, 2022 at 06:00.

Concept of Operations:

February 9: Scalable ConOps:

1. Maintain and hold access zones/Minor Enforcement
2. Enforcement action
3. Deliberate Actions
4. Maintenance Plan

Background and Chronology

January 28, 2022:

- Freedom Convoy protest began arriving in Ottawa.
- National Division began mobilizing RCMP personnel to assist the Ottawa Police Service (OPS).

February 7, 2022:

- As the operation transitioned beyond National Division's capacity to manage as per the scale of the Protests, Command Guidance received from the DCFP to create separate command.

February 8, 2022 (09:30):

- Command bifurcated from National Division and the *RCMP Ottawa Command/Detachment: Assist OPS* was created:
 - Commanding Officer: Supt M. O'Beirne
 - Administration & Personnel OiC: Insp. Tara Norman
 - Operations OiC: Insp. Dave Falls
 - Director General Melissa Rusk: Corporate and Strategic Services, (National Division)

Concept of Operations (see ConOps):

- Maintain and hold access zones/Minor Enforcement
- Enforcement action

February 18, 2022:

- Integrated Command Centre (ICC) began kinetic Deliberate Actions (see ConOps)

Concept of Operations (see ConOps):

- Deliberate Actions

February 20, 2022:

- Integrated Command Centre (ICC) transitioned to Maintenance Plan.
- Maintenance Plan included:
 - RCMP/Integrated Quick Response Teams
 - Perimeter Control
 - Traffic Control
 - Public Order Unit
 - Low-visibility/Staged surge capacity

Concept of Operations (see ConOps):

- Maintenance Plan

February 28, 2022 (14:00):

- *RCMP Ottawa Command/Detachment: Assist OPS* disbanded with Command transition from Supt Mike O'Beirne to National Division OiC Supt Mitch Monette.

March 02, 2022 (06:00):

- Maintenance Plan concluded: All non-Protective Policing operations returned to Ottawa Police Services.

March 03, 2022:

- *RCMP Ottawa Command/Detachment: Assist OPS* Demobilization complete.

Mobilization:

As the personnel demands increased, mobilization from outside National Division proceeded as follows:
TOTAL Deployed for Ottawa Command Assist OPS & Protective including Public Order Units (POU) and Tactical Support Groups (TSG): 1,184 personnel (as of Feb 20, 2022)

Breakdown as follows:

Ottawa Command deployed: 660

Protective Policing Deployed: 216

- February 3: Mobilization of 110 RM personnel.
- February 17: Mobilization of 150 RM personnel.
- February 18: Mobilization of 50 RM personnel.
- February 19: Mobilization of 100 RM personnel.
- **Inclusive of further supporting Divisions for rolling mobilization, in addition to Command/Logistical Group: 660 Personnel

RCMP Ottawa Command/Detachment: Assist OPS personnel deployed in following capacities:

- Public Servants/Administration
- General Duty
- Traffic Control Points (TCP)
- Quick Response Teams (QRT) Vehicle-Mobile
- Rapid Response Teams (RRT) Foot-Mobile
- Prisoner Escort Teams (PET)
- Maintenance Plan-Perimeter
- Command Element (A&P, Operations, Logistics, Mobilization)

RCMP Protective Policing to enhance Protection, Detection and Response capability:

- Tactical Support Group (TSG),
- Emergency Response Team (ERT),
- Enhanced Ministerial Transport/Escorts
- Enhanced Supreme Court Justices Escorts.
- Protective Policing Response Unit (PRU)

Deployed Public Order/Tactical Support Groups / Emergency Response Team (Over-watch) as follows:

- OPS Assist: 204
- Protective: 59
- s.37

Administration & Personnel - General:

Forward Operating Base (FOB)/Area Command:

- Located at the Technical/Protective Operations Facility (TPOF)
- National Capital Region Coordination Centre (NCRCC)
- Temporary Tent(s) erected at the Area Command to house members during briefings; often more than 100 at a time.
- Covid tests were made readily available for all deployed members and provincial guidelines posted in the briefing tent.

Logistics Section:

Section/Shift teams to:

- Register all members for their shifts,
- providing police radios,
- vehicles and;
- any equipment required which included, but not limited to:
 - NHQ provided all of their HBA and carbines, which were logged temporarily into the inventory at TOLS. These items, along with some purchased from U&E, were sufficient for our needs.
 - Members provided with ear and eye protection obtained from training units within the NCR.
 - Mass casualty care medical kits were purchased for all QRT teams.
 - ****Note:** Members were arriving without gas masks, despite this being part of the joining instructions. With CBRNE being so accessible at TPOF, able to arrange for fittings, testing and issuance of masks to those requiring them.
- Ensured all members' information provided to OPS OCC and RCMP OCC.
- Received the members after shift and ensured all equipment was returned and accounted for.
- ****Note:** This registration team was initially RMs, but as the demand for a constant increase in more members for the deployment itself, *urgent transition to Public Servants and RMs with restrictions* was effected. Process that initially was taking well over an hour, was streamlined to ten (10) minutes.

Transport Section:

- Marked vehicles used from C Division, O Division and National Division.
- Used at the static posts and roving patrols.
- Administrative vehicles from both National and NHQ were used as shuttles to get members to and from the static points.
- Large passenger rental vehicles (obtained through NCR Fleet) were used to transport the QRTs to the OPS briefings and to the downtown Area of Operation.
- As RM numbers grew, buses (private and OC Transpo) were also used to transport members to and from TPOF from their hotel (these were deployed members other than O and C Divs).

- In sum, no impediments in obtaining vehicles to meet our mandate to assist OPS. Divisions were very cooperative and provided what they could despite their own needs for vehicles and similar protest situations, in particular in O Division.
- Fleet Management on site at TPOF was extremely beneficial in locating vehicles to suit evolving/ever-changing needs.

Schedule/Planning/Deployment Section:

Team of senior NCOs was created for the scheduling and planning, with representation from O, C, and NHQ – the three divisions that provided the majority of the deployed members. These NCOs ensured that:

- All roles/duties/positions were filled in accordance with the operational cell/OPS needs.
- Provided a conduit to their divisional DEOC and CrOps for a direct line of communication, whether this was for further deployment of members or equipment.
- Acted as a admin/duty NCO for the members of their particular divisions; if members had questions, concerns, kit and clothing needs, etc the deployed members could reach out to them.
- Able to provide CBRNE with names of those needing the gas masks as well. T
- NCOs also scheduled and planned the other deployed divisions into the already built schedule to meet the evolving needs of the operational cell/OPS needs.
- Two (2) CMs well versed in EMS providing support and tracking all names/numbers/schedules and were easily able to provide any statistics to senior management at any given time.

This planning and scheduling cell proved to be invaluable in ensuring admin and personnel ran smoothly and efficiently and aligned with the RMs that were each responsible for fleet management, intervention equipment and tent logistics. All vehicles, equipment and radios were accounted for at the end of the operation, on March 2, 2022 (06:00)

Legal

Special Constable and MOA:

Following discussions between the RCMP, OPP and OPS, during the first week of the Freedom Convoy, the RCMP, via LSU, and in consultation with OPS Legal, entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the Ottawa Police Services that supported the provision of, initially 50, RCMP resources to OPS to assist with the operational response in the downtown core. This initial agreement sought a commitment on the part of OPS to ensure that the identified RCMP resources had the necessary authorities, bestowed by OPS, which were deployed in static post capabilities. The MOU also outlined the arrangements for the RCMP to cost recover any costs associated with the deployment of RCMP resources in support of the OPS response to the convoy.

As resourcing commitments evolved and the period upon which the initial agreement rendered past, the MOA with OPS was amended to reflect the new realities. Which included, an expanded resourcing commitment and a broader timeframe, whereby the MOA was in effect until such time that either party chose to terminate the agreement, or once the RCMP support was fully demobilized following the resolution of the convoy situation in the NCR.

Following the enactment of the EMA and the establishment of the ICC, additional resourcing requirements were sought, specific to Public Order Support, from various Municipal Police Forces across the country. LSU, ND and FP Finance were engaged in drafting the MOA's, in consultation with the identified representatives in the municipal forces, that spoke to the issue of indemnification and the financial commitments associated with the respective deployments. Given concerns surrounding the limitations/specificities associated with the OPP indemnification, the Municipal Forces sought that the RCMP provide all deployed members with RCMP Special Constable Status. The process was rolled out, with the DCFP signing off on these authorities, for all municipal members. In addition, the organizational commitment to ensuring that any direct/indirect costs incurred by the municipal forces, as a result of the deployment of these municipal resources, would be compensated.

Additional discussions were underway to determine if the existing MOA between the RCMP and OPS, provided the vehicles to seek financial compensation, not just limited to the deployment of RCMP resources, but to the deployment of Municipal Forces, in support of the operational plan that was led by OPS and established by the ICC.

Discussions surrounding the legal authorities of RCMP and Municipal Members evolved throughout the overall process. It was recognized that, in absence of Special Constable Status by the OPS, the RCMP resources deployed to support the operational plan prior to the enactment of the EMA, would not have the authorities to do so. OPS commitment to providing our members with this status, limited to the duration of the event. Additional conversations took place with the OPP, following the deployment of O Division TSG to support the response in Windsor, whereby the OPP indicated that they had consulted with the Solicitor General and were willing to swear RCMP members and Municipal Members in via the provincial route. Concurrently, the EMA was enacted, Solicitor-Client Priv.

Solicitor-Client Priv.

Questions arose surrounding the transferability of peace officer status associated with a Municipal Officer, who were operating in another province, and despite the OPP offer, the municipalities expressed a preference that they be indemnified and provided with RCMP Special Constable Authorities, when supporting the operation in the NCR. This was completed, in accordance with the agreed upon terms in the MOA's.

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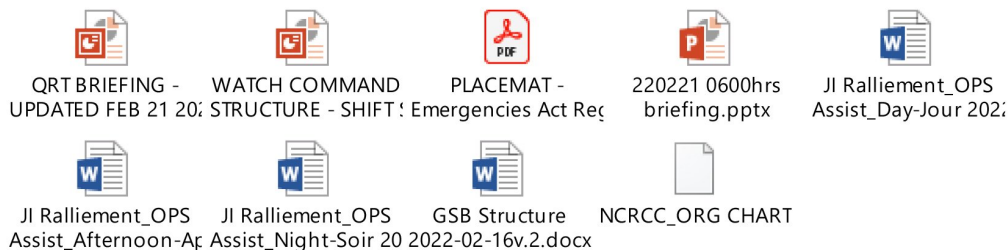
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The OPS process, that was leveraged at the onset of this integrated response, was reinitiated, and any RCMP who no longer had the requisite authorities, were sworn in as OPS Special Constables.

Briefings and Joining Instructions:

Structure created within the RCMP Ottawa Command/Detachment: Assist OPS was such that direct linkages to the Divisions of O, C and NHQ permitted the mobilization of personnel and the development of Joining Instructions as per Appendices.

- Watch Commander: Shift Supervisor Brief (Perimeter, TCP, PET et al)
- Ottawa Police Brief: QRTs
- RCMP Brief: QRT
- Authorities Brief
- Joining Instructions: Day/Afternoon/Night shifts.
- GSB Org Chart
- NCRCC/National Division Org Chart



Conclusion

This operation was effected within critical and diminishing timelines that evolved every hour, day and night. While a more exhaustive analysis will provide further and finer details on lessons-learned and best practices, never enough can ever be said of the expertise, professionalism and passion that all RCMP personnel brought to bear towards one common objective.

Prepared by:

RCMP Ottawa Command/Detachment: Assist OPS Team

2022-03-04